

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELPS AND HINTS IN SEASON

Annual Accounts and Meetings.

The balance sheet season has arrived. Thousands of secretaries and treasurers are now engaged upon their annual statements of accounts. In the majority of parties the 31st December would have seen the closing of last year's finances and though Labour Party rules are silent regarding the dates to which accounts should be completed, we want to enter a plea for uniformity in this matter. We are afraid there is a minority of local parties who close their accounts upon all manner of odd dates, being guided in this matter more by personal convenience than a desire for regularity and comparison. Labour Party national accounts close on 31st December, and if Divisional and Local Labour Parties accounts finish at the same dates clearances and balances would often more plainly appear.

The annual meetings of Divisional Parties are, by Labour Party rules, due to take place in April—except in the cases of Divisional Parties in divided boroughs where March is prescribed. The latter month is also fixed for Local Labour Parties in County Constituencies. So far as Men's and Women's Sections and Ward and polling districts are concerned nothing is laid down as to the date of the annual meetings, though February or early March would seem most appropriate. With many organisations the annual meeting is too much of a movable feast, and, as on the question of the dates for closing accounts, it is time that established Parties settled down to definite annual periods.

Already those Parties which are accustomed to look ahead are booking speakers for the May Day demonstrations. This year, however, it is well to remember that fixtures made for May and June will be very liable to

change if the General Election comes along at that time. Secretaries who have already booked speakers will be well advised to get in touch with them well beforehand, and they must not be surprised if in some instances there is a crying off of dates. The possibility of speakers being requested to place their services at the disposal of Headquarters is not to be overlooked, also the desire of some speakers to place themselves where their services might be esteemed to be of greatest avail. Our readers will know how to act in view of this hint and confirmations of bookings in good time might save disappointment.

Early Election Preparation.

The recent circular from the Headquarters of the Labour Party concerning early purchases of election supplies has not yet been acted upon in some quarters where it might be. The Head Office rightly pointed out that many things could be done in preparation for the General Election if a certain amount of the election expenses was immediately available. The Party which has got its canvassing cards, election parcel, election envelopes, and so forth, in stock, is at an advantage when the election comes. If these things are bought in time there is less likelihood of disappointment when demands are made for urgent delivery. Supplies can be made to conform to demand. Good use can also be made of the matters mentioned long before the election is here. Head Office suggested that a certain amount of election money should be freed now for the necessary purchases mentioned. That does not mean "beginning the election" although the expenditure would later have to be returned as election expenses. The course advised is a prudent one and local Parties who have Unions behind them are told that they might reasonably approach these

organisations for the release for some money in advance.

Apropos of the above matter some Parties have not quite understood recent advice to select their election Agent. There is considerable advantage when it is known who will take charge of the election contest, for the Agent himself is enabled to qualify himself and make other preparations long beforehand. But this should not mean a hasty or ill-considered selection just because a good man or woman is not immediately in view. The point of the Head Office circular is met if real endeavours are made to find a suitable agent. Labour Parties who select in haste may repent at leisure; and in many instances the best advice would be to permit the Chairman and Candidate to prospect around for someone who will have the necessary time and opportunity and who is otherwise fitted. Opportunity should then be taken to give the prospective Agent an insight into the law and technicalities of elections. We need hardly assure our readers of our own readiness to assist the young trainee in search of knowledge.

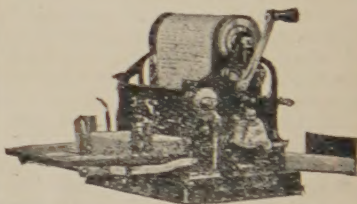
CALENDARS.

We are obliged to a number of our readers who have sent us the New Year calendars issued by them in their constituencies. Some of them are very creditable productions, and we trust that it is these calendars which in thousands of workers' homes will be marked up with the Red Letter day which is to usher in the next Labour Government. Mention must be made of South Hackney's calendar on which there is an excellent photograph of the Vice-President of the Labour Party, Mr. Herbert Morrison, who is the Prospective Labour Candidate for this Division.

For business success it would be hard to beat what has been done in Sheffield Central. Here 18,000 copies of a calendar have been distributed largely through the energy of the Labour Agent, Mrs. Margaret H. Gibb. A number of advertisements were procured and the nett cost to the Party has worked out at only £3 10s. This surely is a worthy expenditure for 18,000 all-the-year-round reminders of Labour's being and usefulness.

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Preparation for the General Election.

BY THE EDITOR.

ARTICLE IX.

I must now draw this series of articles to a close in order to make way for other features we have in pickle to assist our readers when the General Election arrives.

Almost every phase of preparation has now been passed in review, but there remains two important questions not yet touched upon, *i.e.*, the work of sub-agents and of personation agents. With a review of these two matters I shall conclude this series.

Sub-agents of course may only be appointed in a County Division, and the wisdom or unwisdom of appointing them is a matter best thought out beforehand and decided as a matter of policy prior to the commencement of the contest.

It is difficult to lay down a general rule on this question. County constituencies differ widely in their characteristics; but not only does the character of the constituency enter into question but the character and distribution of one's political forces, and the election material in man and woman power, at the Party's disposal. The difficulties which confront Labour Parties in the selection of suitably trained men as election agents repeat themselves in the selection of sub-agents; and within his own area the sub-agent is capable of as many mistakes as an election agent in the larger area—hence the risk.

The sub-agent has virtually the same authority in the polling districts to which he is appointed as the election agent possesses himself, unless and until his authority is limited by the election agent. Many agents do not appoint sub-agents at all but prefer to conduct their election through clerks.

On the whole I incline to manage wherever possible without appointing sub-agents, but in those constituencies where active Parties have developed, distant from the centre, or where townships grouped together for Parliamentary purposes have been accustomed to organise on a self-centred basis, sub-agents become desirable, subject in all cases to definite limitations of authority.

It does not at all follow that a sub-agent is to be paid, but the Corrupt

and Illegal Practices Act limits the number of paid sub-agents to one for each polling district, though the usual practice is to group a number of polling districts together under one officer. What is done by the sub-agent (within his authority) is deemed to be done by the election agent, and where an act done by the election agent would injure the candidate it will equally injure him if done by the sub-agent. One of the liabilities attendant on the appointment of sub-agents is that each are required to have an office or place to which claims, notices, writs, summonses and documents may be sent. This in practice may not seem difficult because each area will presumably have its Committee Room, but there seems to be involved an obligation to make the local address available for the miscellaneous communications mentioned after the election is over in the same way that the election agent makes his address available for the receipt of claims, etc.

The Labour Party election parcel contains a document giving a number of instructions to sub-agents.

The question of appointing personation agents is even more debatable. It is useless sending men or women to sit all day in the polling stations when workers are urgently needed for fetching up voters. It is equally useless to send them in without proper information on which to work. In short the advisability of appointing personation agents should be decided as a matter of election policy, and if it is thought fit to man the polling stations adequate provision must be made in time.

Provision for personation agents involves the setting aside of registers for each station. These require to be properly marked with all the information that has been collected from the contest concerning "Fors," "Againsts," "Doubtfuls," "Removals," "Duplicates," "Deaths," and "Plurals." If the election arrangements are not sufficiently efficient to enable the personation agents' registers to be marked up with this sort of information, the only value then attaching to their presence in the polling station is the

doubtful moral check they may be upon the offence of personation.

The personation agent requires to be a man or woman of tact, and familiarity with the form of the register is essential. He or she should be able readily to tell, for instance, from the letterings against the electors' names, which persons are entitled to vote at a particular election, and who are not. It is the personation agent's place to observe that the correct Ballot Act procedure is followed out in his station in regard to spoilt papers, mistakes in the register, illiterate voters, blind voters, Jewish voters and "tendered" votes. It may be necessary to request the Presiding Officer to put an applicant for a voting paper on oath to answer certain specified questions, though to unnecessarily cause irritation by doing so would be injurious to the candidate. A personation agent is entitled to place his seal on the Ballot box at the close of the poll.

A course frequently taken is to swear in personation agents but only to send them in when special reasons arise. Finally, if one notifies all "deads" and complete removals to the Returning Officer in time a good deal of the excuse for employing personation agents is disposed of.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

We have received a copy of the *Bolton Citizen*, the official organ of the Bolton Labour Party. The editor is Coun. H. Eastwood, the local Labour agent. The paper is an eight-page, sells at one penny, and is really well got up. It bears evidence of prosperity also in a number of advertisements. The front page contains a couple of striking photographs illustrating the difference between some typical slum property in Bolton and property in the Council Estates.

Address: *Bolton Citizen*, Spinners Hall, Bolton, Lancs.

Numbers 1 and 2 of the *Long Eaton Citizen* has reached us. This is a new eight-page monthly published by the Long Eaton Trades Council and Labour Party. There is a gratis circulation of

5,000 copies. The paper is printed by Messrs. J. S. Reynolds and Co., Ltd., of Ripley, Derbyshire, and the first numbers encourage us to hope for a prosperous future for this newcomer.

Address: *Long Eaton Citizen*, Labour Hall, Albert Road, Long Eaton, Notts.

The *Workers' Monthly* is, we believe, a development of an earlier and similar paper which made its appearance in Surrey and Hampshire, a year or so ago. Apparently there are now several editions printed for different constituencies. Some of these are before us and show that the *Workers' Monthly* is now a 12 or 16-page production and certainly quite vigorously conducted. The price is one penny.

Address: The *Workers' Monthly*, 59 St. George's Road, Aldershot, Hants.

The *Labour Standard* of Edinburgh which continues to progress, has recently devoted attention to a bus war which seems to be taking place around Edinburgh. Labour does not necessarily stand for the open door and unlimited competition. Its objective is, of course, collective ownership, but in the interim its sympathies most naturally lie with those firms who can give good conditions to their workers and safety and service to the public. These are rarely one and the same firms with pirates and undercutters. Incidentally we note that the pages of the *Labour Standard* profit by bus advertisements. Other papers take notice!

Address: *Labour Standard*, 5, Hill-side Crescent, Edinburgh.

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The Equal Franchise Act Explained

BY THE EDITOR.

ARTICLE IV.

I have now covered the various necessary points of explanation concerning the new Act and last month I showed how the provisions of the Act are being brought into force.

Since the last article a further Order in Council has been made, prescribing the new claim forms and making minor alterations in previous Orders in Council to bring them into consonance with the new requirements. These latest Orders are referred to in another part of this issue, and no further Orders may be expected. Everything is in fact at last provided for the great change, and in a few days after the publication of this issue we shall see the new Electors' Lists—at any rate in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, for the lists in Scotland are not due to the 16th February.

And now to ensure that this last dramatic extension of the franchise is not to produce a big crop of disappointed non-voters when the great day arrives.

Obviously, the thing to do is to ascertain that all known supporters are on the new lists. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the coming few weeks are extremely critical ones and they should be extraordinarily busy ones for Local Labour Parties and their officials. The last day for making claims will be the 16th February—2nd March in Scotland.

Those officers in the constituencies to whom the registers are usually sent ought on this occasion to make special efforts to get their copies of the Electors' Lists to time or even before time. If free copies are not usually sent some person appointed as "agent" for registration purposes may claim them, but even if payment has to be made there must be no delay in securing lists. It is to be hoped that arrangements have already been made for the appropriate portions to be distributed to the Local Parties and Ward Committees. If Local Labour Parties are taking the matter as seriously as they ought to do the few days following the 24th January should mean that thousands of Labour Party Local Committees are meeting throughout the country examining and apportioning for further examination the new lists for their areas.

This indeed is the essential thing. It is an absurd plan to appoint one man as registration agent in a Division and expect that successful work will be accomplished without the local machine being brought into play. It simply cannot be done this way, and even at this late hour I trust that readers of the *Labour Organiser* will appreciate the urgency of the question; if meetings are not already convened, do please convene them. However weak the ward and polling district machinery may be it is with them that the most effective registration work is done. Local people looking through the lists will discover many seeming omissions and possible additions. Such examination produces crops of queries, and this will be work for the locals for the next fortnight.

By the above paragraph I do not mean that we must dispense with single-handed examination of the register either centrally or locally. A comparison of the old register with the new lists is the first step in systematic work. It is surprising how one finds in this way disappearances of voters who were marked as "Fors." Those who have disappeared should be written up as queries, and the old addresses should be visited and the electors traced if possible. A house without votes is also something to be queried.

We are aware that in assuming that our workers have got a marked register to work upon we are presuming too much. But registration work can only give the best results where supporters are known and looked for in the register. If no marked register exists then every list of supporters the Party possesses should be compared with the register.

In populous areas it is quite good work to take the register door to door informing the householders that the purpose is to check the new lists. This course is productive of many claims, and in close packed areas more ground is got over than by picking out queries beforehand.

But how to deal with the mass of queries that is collected? I have indicated that visitation of all queries is essential, but the signing of claim forms may mean a great deal of additional running to and fro unless every

worker carries claim forms with him when visiting.

Fortunately the law permits a course which avoids a lot of this work. One person may claim on behalf of another. Thus the Party Agent or secretary may claim in respect of every claimant without troubling the latter to sign at all. It is by the extensive use of this facility that many claims are made. But workers do not always note down sufficient particulars and some guidance to them is usually found necessary. The best thing is to provide workers with forms similar to that produced on page 9. Here all necessary facts to ascertain whether a person is qualified or no are tabulated in simple form. The worker merely fills up this form when going along to the houses and when fully entered the forms are handed in to the Central Secretary (or whoever has been appointed to make claims). The latter fills in the necessary form from the particulars given and signs the claims in his own name. The form produced is that used by Mr. Hinley Atkinson, Central Agent, Birmingham.

We should not care to conclude this article without mentioning what might be done to ensure that the enfranchisement of five-and-a-quarter million new women voters results in a disappointment for the Tory Government, who hoped much from this achievement. We do not imagine that the Tories will get many votes out of sheer gratitude. Most women are too discerning to be deceived concerning the object for which the vote was "granted," but that the introduction to the register of several million new and inexperienced voters will constitute a disturbing and uncertain factor at the next election cannot be denied. The immediate problem is what may be done to secure their attachment to the Labour Party beforehand.

The average young woman has hitherto taken but a small part in politics and only a fraction of them have taken any part in Trades Union activities. And even the newly-enfranchised married women have no long acquaintance with politics. Hence there are few political traditions to break down; in the main the new voter is pliant and fancy free. It seems that our opponents are still pinning faith in the spells of yellow journalism and stunt electioneering in their attempts to capture the

new vote, but there is one healthy appetite that Tory methods will excite. The women will be curious to know for themselves what the Labour Movement really is. And they will be puzzled by the wild statements of the gutter press and the evidence of their own eyes and senses concerning the good intentions and right aspirations of the Labour Party. In short they will thirst for information.

And Labour's success with new women voters will depend upon the extent to which this knowledge and information is extended. It will not do to wait till the General Election. Meetings to which new voters are invited by placard and handbill or circular can be held *NOW*, and in fact every advertisement of propaganda meetings should contain a special invitation to the newly enfranchised. It is well worth at least one speech being directed to the new voter; and it should not be assumed that everyone of them has precisely that knowledge of past political events which the older voter possesses — or of the records of the respective Parties for that matter.

A good deal of intensive work can be accomplished between now and the next election in, at any rate, some constituencies. In every constituency there is at least a nucleus among the new voters comprising those who come from Labour homes. The names of these might be ascertained and it should readily occur to the Party and the Women's Section, working in co-operation, what use to make of the information. Invitations to the Women's Section meeting may be thought suitable in some places; in others visitations may be arranged; or again personal invitations to special demonstrations.

The new voters will of course be identifiable in the new lists, and in the better financed constituencies it will not be too early to address a suitable communication to them through the post. Local Parties with newspapers should be alive to the education of the new voter and devote suitable space to them.

When the election comes along it will be equally vain to ignore the new section of the electorate. A campaign which is to proceed on the old lines will be doomed to failure. There are enough new voters in every constitu-

ency to upset the whole order of things. Therefore election addresses, meeting campaigns and literature, and last, but not least, the staffing of the election, must all be arranged with an eye to the problem. If intelligent anticipation and intelligent realisation get full play we may look forward to the General Election with confidence that the new element will come down on our side.

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AGENCY CHANCES AND NEW APPOINTMENTS.

Walthamstow West: Mr. J. S. Price has now ceased to be agent.

Gloucester: Mr. J. H. Round recently resigned his agency. We understand the post is not yet being filled.

South Derbyshire: Mr. Louis Straw, formerly part-time agent, has now been appointed full-time agent.

Address: 101, Oxford Street, Church Gresley, nr. Burton-on-Trent.

Middlesbrough: Mr. R. Morgan has been appointed full-time agent on a temporary engagement to act until the General Election in the place of Mr. R. Berriff, whom we regret to learn met with an accident which will incapacitate him from duties for some time.

Address: 8, North Ormsby Road, Middlesbrough.

Walthamstow West: Mr. J. Graham has been appointed to this vacancy.

Address: 342, Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London, E.17.

Sunderland: Mr. Harry Leedale has been appointed full-time agent.

Address: 28, Marshall Street, Fulwell, Sunderland.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Chatham: Mr. H. J. Williams—new address, 51, Dale Street, Chatham, Kent.

Leeds Central: Mr. W. Withey—new address, York House, 21, Park Street, Leeds.



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Division

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QUALIFICATIONS.

[illegible]

Resident only.

Resident owner or tenant of dwelling-house.	Wife or husband of res. owner, or tenant of dwelling-house.	Resident tenant of room or rooms let unfurnished.	Wife or husband of tenant of rooms let unfurnished.	Occupier of business premises £10 annual value.	Wife or husband of occupier of business premises, £10 value	Occupier of business premises under £10 value.
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INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Be sure each person was 21 years of age on or before December 1st, 1928.
2. State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss, with full names, address and polling district.

3. Place X opposite the name in the Qualification column which applies. Be sure of the right column.
4. Where the qualification period of 3 months has been at more than one address, use a second line to give previous address and date of removal.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.

Extension of Polling Hours.

Question. Is it possible for the candidate in our Local Municipal By-election to extend the polling hours from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., by giving notice to the Returning Officer in the same way as can be done with a Parliamentary Election?

Answer. No. The hours of polling in a Municipal By-election are governed by the Elections (Hours of Polling) Act, 1885, in which it is laid down "that at a Municipal Election the poll, if any, shall commence at 8 o'clock in the forenoon and be kept open till 8 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day and no longer."

At a Parliamentary Election the hours are now governed by the Extension of Polling Hours Act, 1913, by which the hour of commencing the poll may, upon due notice given by any candidate, or his election agent, be 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m., and the hour of closing be 9 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. Our correspondent's attention is drawn to page 115 in our issue for June, 1928, in which we reprinted the bill recently introduced by Labour Members in the House of Commons for the purpose of securing similar treatment as between Parliamentary and Municipal Elections.

Unemployed for Compiling Register.

Question. I remember seeing something some time ago in the *Labour Organiser* regarding the employment of unemployed persons in the compilation of the new register. Was this a compulsory order or not, or was it left to the discretion of registration officers to engage those whom he thought fit? In this district the only persons to be engaged have been the relatives of the registration officer.

Answer. There is no compulsion on the registration officer to employ

unemployed persons, but the Home Office has on many occasions pressed on registration officers the desirability of utilizing the unemployed where found suitable. The power to compel is however doubtful. There seems to be no means of compelling the registration officer to employ unemployed persons if it pleases him to engage others.

Teacher as Absent Voter.

Question. Is it possible to get a school teacher on the Absent Voters' List? I have a case where a teacher is away at school eight months and at home in her own rooms for four months of the year. Could such people get on the Absent Voters' List?

Answer. The first thing to settle in a case like this is whether the teacher is going to get on any list at all, and if so which list. There is a further possibility of being registered twice! We presume that the residence which the teacher occupies for four months of the year is regarded by our correspondent as her permanent home. But we could imagine some question arising as to whether this residence, if it is only residence during holidays, is sufficient for a qualification. Assuming that three months out of the four was residence corresponding with the normal qualifying period there could of course be no question, but it will depend very much on the circumstances and conditions of residence in any particular year whether the teacher mentioned would be entitled to be registered or no.

A similar question is likely to arise in the place where the teacher resides eight months out of the twelve. If there is a physical residence for three months prior to the qualifying period she is clearly entitled to be registered in this place notwithstanding that a claim has been established in the area which she regards as her home. It is clear that in both places it may be possible to establish an actual or constructive residence, but whether the claims will succeed will as stated depend upon the dates and other facts.

As to being placed upon the Absent Voters' List the Representation of the People Act, 1918, provides that "any person entitled to be registered as a

Parliamentary elector may . . . claim to be placed on the Absent Voters' List; and the registration officer, if satisfied that there is a probability that the claimant, by reason of the nature of his occupation, service or employment, may be debarred from voting at a poll at Parliamentary Elections held during the time the register is in force, shall place the claimant, if registered, on the Absent Voters' List."

It will be seen therefore what conditions the teacher must satisfy to be placed on the Absent Voters' List. Our correspondent must remember however, that a claim to be placed on this list may involve an examination of the facts of residence by our opponents. Unless the vote is soundly established there may be some risk of same being lost by drawing attention to the facts when claiming.

House Purchase a Disqualification?

Question. Can you please tell me what is the position concerning the eligibility for our Local Council of a man who has bought a council house? We have also cases of persons who are tenants of council houses. Will buying a house or renting a house debar these persons from standing for the Council? The houses that are bought are subsidy houses.

Answer. These questions are somewhat difficult to answer. "A person is disqualified from being elected or from being a councillor of a Municipal Corporation if and while he has directly or indirectly any share or interest in any contract with the Council." There is an exemption for a person whose share or interest in any contract only applies to his interest in the sale or purchase of land. Houses are not mentioned.

A similar disqualification was enacted by the Local Government Act, 1894, the exemptions being a trifle wider—but again the sale or purchase of houses is not mentioned.

There are authorities who still hold that a contract for the purchase of a house notwithstanding that the house carries a subsidy does not disqualify, but we are of the opinion that this view is unsound and that a person accepting the subsidy is disqualified from being elected to the Local Government body from whom he purchases.

A person who rents a Council house is not in quite the same position. Nobody seems to have thought of disqualifying a man because he is a council tenant, and whether this is entirely in accord with the terms of the Statute or no the fact remains that many council tenants serve on councils who are their landlords.

When it comes to a question of their voting however, they have no right to vote on questions affecting the rent of the houses, for it is laid down "that a member of the Council shall not vote or take part in the discussion on any matter before the Council or a Committee in which he has directly or indirectly by himself or by his partner any pecuniary interest."

LABOUR WIRELESS.

The Challenge is the organ of the Wellingborough Divisional Labour Party. We have quoted "Uncle Ernest" who bursts forth at Christmas time before, and our only regret is that on this occasion we have got to condense his two columns, and our selection of his Christmas crackers may not be necessarily the best. The publishing office of the *Challenge* is 29, Church Street, Wellingborough, Northants.

* * *

Wellingborough calling! We must apologise to listeners-in from W.B.O. for the interruption in transmission that has recently occurred. It was caused by some necessary alterations at the studio, but these being now effected, to the satisfaction of all concerned, we can once again proceed.

The Weather Forecast.—The strong winds experienced during November are likely to continue. They will reach gale force at times, as they did on November 17th at Wellingborough, when a gentleman named Dallas was nearly swept off his feet by the enthusiasm that prevailed. There will be an entire absence of fog during the ensuing months, and the strong Labour breezes are likely to keep the atmosphere clear and bright until next June. In that month there is likely to be such a heat-wave as shall completely melt away the Tory majority at Westminster, cause the Liberal Party to shrivel to insignificant dimensions, and put Labour into office and into power. Wellingborough

will be one of the warmest and brightest spots in the kingdom.

* * *
Why are Tories and Liberals not to be compared with Labour for helping the people?

Because they are as far as the poles asunder, and there is all the difference in the world between them.

* * *
Why is the Tory Government like a lame donkey?

Because it doesn't know how to budge it (budget).

* * *
What trades are Baldwin and MacDonald likely to follow after the next election?

Baldwin is likely to keep on with his dyeing business, and MacDonald will take up cabinet-making.

* * *
What Christmas-fare does George Dallas most resemble?

The newest and best of candied dates (candidates).

* * *
Why is the Liberal Revival like a candle?

Because the more it flickers and splutters the nearer it is to going out.

* * *
Why is the Liberal Party like a shipwreck at Dover?

Because it is not only sinking but is in great straits.

* * *
Why is Toryism like the back of a watch?

Because it is always behind time.

* * *
Why will the Tory Government resemble a knitted sock after the next election?

Because it will be worsted.

* * *
What part of electric fittings will Mr. Dallas resemble after the next election?

The live wire at the top of the pole (poll).

* * *
Why is Toryism similar, but not quite like a prison?

Because the prison is made up of many small cells. Toryism is one great cell (sell).

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REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

MORE ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Two further Orders in Council have been made amending the Representation of the People Order, 1918. It will be remembered that all the Statutory Rules and Orders made under the 1918 Act and succeeding Acts were consolidated up to February 7th, 1927. They are obtainable as R.P. leaflet 134, at the price of 1/6 from H.M. Stationers. Other Orders made since February 7th, 1927, have been published in our columns.

The two new Orders are published as R.P. 138 and R.P. 139 at the price of one penny and twopence respectively.

R.P. 138 (the official designation of the Order is Statutory Rules and Orders 1928, No. 963) merely alters certain dates in the Juries Order, 1927. The following are the only two clauses contained in the Order:—

"1. Article 3 and paragraph (2) of Article 4 of the Juries Order, 1927, shall have effect in relation to the year nineteen hundred and twenty-nine as if the thirtieth day of March were substituted in the said Article and paragraph for the fifteen day of September."

"2. This Order may be cited as the Juries Order, 1928."

For the convenience of our readers we give below Article 3 and paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Juries' Order, 1927, referred to in the above Order:—

"Where an application is made to the registration officer by any person marked as a juror to have the mark placed against his name removed, notification by the registration officer of his decision under subsection (5) of section one of the Act of 1922, shall be given to that person on or before the *fifteenth day of September* in any year."

"The decision of the registration officer on any objection made by any person under this Article shall be notified on or before the *fifteenth day of September* in any year."

R.P. 139 (of which the official designation is Statutory Rules and Orders 1928, No. 988) is of considerable importance as it prescribes the new claim forms made necessary by the Equal Franchise Act. As, however, these forms will be in the hands of our

readers by this time we do not feel it necessary to take up two or three pages by reprinting the forms.

Rule 1 of the Order reads as follows:—

"In paragraph (2) of Rule 36 of the Order for the words 'a man' where these words occur in subparagraphs (a) and (b) there shall be substituted the words 'a person,' and subparagraph (c), including the Note thereto, shall be omitted."

For the convenience of our readers we reprint subparagraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph 2 of Rule 36 of the principal Order above referred to. It is unnecessary to reprint subparagraph 3 as this has no longer effect.

"The questions which may be asked of a person claiming to vote at a Parliamentary Election as proxy for an elector should be:—

(2) "The questions in Part II. of the Second Schedule to the Act, modified so as to run as follows:—

(a) In the case of a person voting as proxy on behalf of a man registered in respect of a residence qualification:— 'Have you already voted at this general election on behalf of C.D. in respect of a residence qualification?'

(b) In the case of a person voting as proxy on behalf of a man registered in respect of a qualification other than a residence qualification:—

"Have you already voted at this general election on behalf of C.D. in respect of a qualification other than a residence qualification?"

Rule 2 of the Order makes obsolete the separate forms of claim for men and women and substitutes a form to be used by both.

Rule 3 of the Order makes a necessary alteration in the forms of "statement of qualification for registration as a naval or military voter" required to be used by women serving with the military forces, or on war service abroad or afloat.

Rule 4 of the Order prescribes the new registration form for use in Scotland.

Rule 5 of the Order effects a minor alteration which makes clear which form is to be used in a claim made in Scotland by one person claiming on behalf of another when the latter is a naval or military voter.

Rule 6 of the Order re-enacts the instructions (given in Form No. 1 in Schedule IV. of R.P. 134) to naval and military voters voting by post. The only alteration, however, is in the sixth "instruction" which is made to accord with the new qualifications. The new "instruction" reads:—

"If more than one ballot paper is received it must be remembered that one vote only can be given in respect of a residence qualification. A second vote, however, may be given either (a) in respect of business premises in another constituency occupied by the voter, or by the voter's wife or husband, or (b) in a university constituency."

Rule 7 of the Order postpones the operation of the Rules 1 and 6 till the 1st May next. The other new forms of course are to be used at once.

ALL AND SUNDRY.

Our thanks are due to a number of readers who have sent us souvenirs and handbooks of Bazaars. These always interest us, but of even greater interest is the amount which has been raised by them, and if our readers would accompany their literature by a statement of this character we should be pleased to mention them in these columns. We note that the Bilston Labour Party recently raised over £100 by its Bazaar. A forty-page handbook very well illustrated and interspersed with a large number of advertisements has reached us.

The Accrington Labour Party recently distributed 21,000 copies of an interesting ten-page pamphlet designated as a souvenir. The eight-page interior was of art paper and contained the life story of Mr. Tom Snowden, the Prospective Candidate. There was an excellent photograph of the candidate and another group photograph of the candidate's family taken with Mr. J. R. MacDonald.

Mr. J. J. Stonier, Labour Agent in Smethwick, kindly sends us the following:—

November 16th was the birthday of our Borough Member, Sir Oswald Mosley, M.P. We thought the opportunity too good to be allowed to slip by without some notice. Accordingly we arranged a Birthday Carnival and made sure of getting the Member to attend.

It was a jolly party that danced to the rhythm of the band. Paper hats, trumpets, balloons, etc., etc., all contributed to the fun of the fair.

During the interval the Member was presented with a case of pipes on behalf of the Trades Council and a bouquet of carnations was our gift to his gracious lady. A few words of thanks from the Member for the Party and gifts put everybody on good terms with themselves and we were proud to think that, although he claimed to be a family man and loved to keep things in the old-fashioned way on his own hearth, he had sufficient affection for Smethwick to come and spend his birthday evening with us.

The event was not only good propa-

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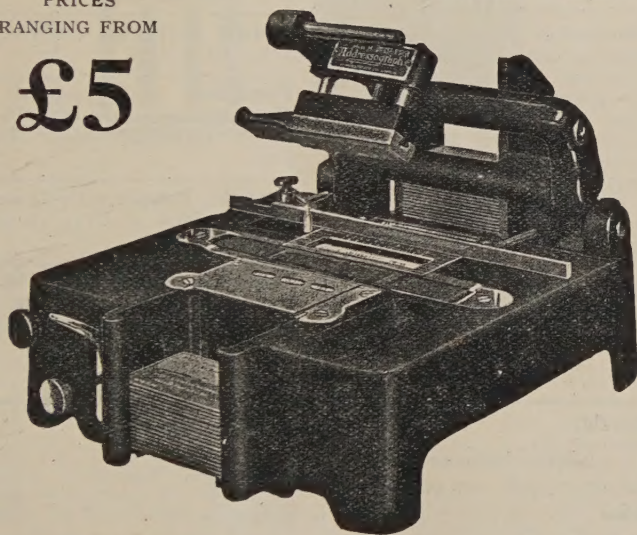
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ganda but contributed a very welcome profit to the Trades Council Funds.

Mr. Isaac Crabtree, J.P., Secretary and Registration Agent of the Oldham Trades Council sends us (apropos of last month's article on "Preparation for the General Election") a specimen of the Number Sheet used in Oldham. These Number Sheets were specially printed for the Oldham T.C. and L.P., and Mr. Crabtree says that he adopted this plan in the 1918 election and found it the most effective and quickest method of dealing with voters at busy times. This tip from one of the oldest and most experienced Labour agents is of value.

Mr. T. Summerbell, whose advertisement appears on another page, is circularising Labour agents and secretaries with samples of his election envelopes and other election specialities. They are both good and cheap and are accompanied by the business offer to supply the goods now or to stock them and deliver as required. In either case payment can be deferred until after the General Election.

The following record card which has come into our hands appears to be very

suited for use in Labour offices where clerical assistance can be obtained. As will be seen it is an individual record of each member's activities together with other vital facts concerning the member.

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